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land allotments, but that small holdings are far more eagerly sought for than Mr. Curtler intimates. With the success of the small holder on the Continent constantly in mind, one cannot quite follow the author in his argument that a like success is improbable in England. It is clear, at any rate, that the progressive decline of the British agricultural population, as indicated by the last census, of 1911, is an unfavorable social omen in Great Britain, and that stiff measures of some description need to be taken.

WALTER P. HALL.

Studies in Statecraft, being Chapters Biographical and Bibliographical, mainly on the Sixteenth Century. By Sir GEOFFREY BUTLER, K.B.E., M.A., Fellow, Librarian, and Praelector in Diplomatic History at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. (Cambridge: University Press. 1920. Pp. vi, 138. \$4.00.)

THIS thin volume of essays, which "make but the humblest of pretensions" (introduction), deals with theories of sovereignty; pacifism, and world organization for the preservation of peace, mainly in the sixteenth century. The title would lead one to expect a series of essays on the work of statesmen and diplomats, but, with the exception of chapter IV., on Sully and his Grand Design, what is given is studies on the speculations of obscure political philosophers. Chapter I. deals with Bishop Roderick and Renaissance Pacifism, being a critical exposition of the bishop's treatise, *De Pace et Bello*. Chapter II. treats of the French "Civilians", Roman Law, and the New Monarchy, and shows for the civil lawyers (as Gierke, by the way, shows for other lawyers) that medieval legal theory by no means supported the position of the autocrat. Chapter III. sketches the life and work of a remarkable scholar, William Postel, who was out of his head part of the time and, one is tempted to say, in trouble the remainder of the time, and who regarded the establishment of peace as achievable only through the dominance of France. Sir Geoffrey's opinion that political philosophers will deem this of interest "in the record of the growing significance of the secular nation state" (p. 49) seems doubtful to the reviewer. Did not Pierre Dubois hold much the same opinion two hundred and fifty years earlier, to say nothing of the others around A.D. 1300? (See Dubois's *De Recuperatione*, and R. Scholz's *Publizistik*.) Chapter V. treats of "the Grand Design" of Emerich Crucé, who would have a permanent bench of the ambassadors of all sovereigns, located in one city, "in order that the differences that might arise should be settled by the whole assembly" (p. 99). Surely this is more naïve than Dubois's league to enforce peace.

The essays are of value as showing the movement of international ideas among the lesser lights. The bibliographical addenda on the writings of Rodericus Sancius (Bishop Roderick) and of William Postel are

well done and useful. But one reader at least was irked by the discursiveness of the essays, which savor, to him, more of the platform which the author adorned during the war (we remember him very kindly as a member of the British Mission) than of a scholarly book on political theory. Thus, in working up to Crucé's proposal for preserving peace, Sir Geoffrey quotes Crucé's advocacy of the resumption of Charlemagne's plan for knitting together the Rhine and Danube, and then adds:

The two seas were joined in time, but they had to wait two hundred and fifty years, and then the necessary work was not undertaken by a French King but by the most relentless of French enemies, after a peace disastrous to France and sown with the seed of future European wars; but it is interesting to find foreshadowed by Crucé a development of German canalisation, which within thirty years of the Peace of Frankfurt was to give Germany, and Prussia in particular, 8750 miles of canals, of which 5041 were main streams, 885 composed of channelled rivers and the rest canals proper dug in the fashion which Crucé had projected. (pp. 94-95).

Such commentaries seem out of place in a volume of scholarly essays, and we prefer the more restrained method, employed so well, for example, in Herbert Fisher's *Studies in History and Politics* (Oxford, 1920).

G. C. S.

Geschichte der Päpste seit dem Ausgang des Mittelalters. Von LUDWIG Freiherr von PASTOR. Bände VII. und VIII. *Pius IV., 1559-1565; Pius V., 1566-1572.* (Freiburg-in-Breisgau: Herder and Company. 1920. Pp. xl, 706; xxxvi, 676.)

It is reassuring so soon after the Great War to receive these two thick volumes. True, the author tells us that both were all but completed when the breaking out of the war made publication impossible. But he tells us also that throughout the war, despite its severing him from Rome, he could go on with the work, since already its materials had been gleaned from the archives. Great difficulties there were; but they did not prevent his practical completion of the pontificates of Gregory XIII., Sixtus V., Clement VIII., Paul V., and Gregory XV. Further volumes may therefore be expected soon; and these will carry us to 1623. No wonder that the author, though now past the middle of his sixties, can begin to count with confidence on bringing to its purposed goal the great work of his life.

When in 1886 its volumes began to appear, and when each surpassed its predecessor in the almost appalling conscientiousness of its research, it seemed unlikely that a lifetime could suffice. But the years soon demonstrated, too, the writer's remarkable capacity for work; and, though task after task has been laid on his competent shoulders, his history of the popes has gone steadily forward. Perhaps the war